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THE WORLD UNITE

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Religion and Politics

By MOSES BARITZ.

The Catholic Federation held a meeting in Sydney last week, and decided to enter politics. The Federation declared for a separate political party to contest State and other elections. The resolutions passed, conveyed to the lay mind, the proposition that it was new for the Roman Catholic Church to "enter" the political arena.

This, of course, is not so. The Roman Catholic Church is the oldest political party in existence. Its very nature made it political, and its attitude has remained so. The Roman Catholic Church has been far more a political organisation than a religious institution. It has used its political power to force its religious ideas upon society in the same way as it has used its religion to dominate politics. Of course, it will be suggested as in the Catholic Federation did, that the reason for the "entrance" of the Federation into politics is to dispel the "bigotry" that exists in the religious world. A pretty shrewd suggestion, were it not for the fact that the Roman Catholic religion has been in the past the most tyrannical of religions.

But we have an admiration for a religion that is a political institution. It has to justify its trickery. That, the Roman Catholic Church has done. Without any disguise, the Roman Catholic Church has stated its opposition and unswervingly carried it out. It has in clear language and action declared its opposition to the aspiration of the proletariat. In so doing it has ever been anxious to assist the poverty-stricken worker to obtain a greater measure of relief. That is undeniable. But as the religion is barbaric, that action was only to fatten up the animal to have a more juicy taste when devoured. The chief characteristic of the Roman Catholic Church has been, and is, to assert itself without clothing its action.

This cannot be said for other creeds. All the "protestant" religions, the "Dis-senters," "Nonconformists," and the thousand petty sects that have broken away from orthodoxy, meaning, of course, the Roman Catholic Church, are a horrid combination of unmitigated humbug, as full of cant and hypocrisy, of trickery, and chicanery, of deception and delusion, as the Bible is of words.

The anti-Roman Catholic religions will look upon the new (?) act of the Catholic Federation as a challenge to them. And that is exactly what the new move is for. IT IS TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE WORKING-CLASS FROM THE REAL ISSUE. It is to land the workers in a bog. It is to make them discuss politics from a religious view-point. It is to try the old game of "divide and conquer." "By that sign shall we conquer!" Such a challenge will be taken up. And energetically too. Already the money must be rolling in to the Loyalist League of Victoria. Already the reactionary "Rationalists" and God-killers are gloating over the possibility of an added income.

The Marxist, however, will not be dragged from the path of historical materialism. He will continue to show that the growth and development of religious ideas arise from an economic foundation. He will still point to the absurdity of the worker standing by a religion which is effete. The Marxist will show that religions are not created by men, but are part of the evolution of society. The Marxist has an equal contempt for the "Rationalist," as he has for the "Pantheist,"

"Atheist" and "Thiest." Each has a delusion, and as such, is acting in the interest of the master class. One has but to examine the history of the "free thought" movement to prove conclusively that their most noted speakers and writers have been on the side of our masters. Just as an example look over the career of Bradlaugh, J. M. Robertson, "Honest" John Morley, Aristide Briand, and "Tiger" Clemenceau. Most of the leading French politicians are "Rationalists," and incidentally they have been more truthful in their attitude toward the working class than the most bigoted religionist.

The essential point for the Marxist is the class struggle. Under no circumstances can that be set aside. Its explanation must be constant and persistent. The worker, understanding that, will not be so prone to look at a black-gowned mortal for salvation. He will realise that it is necessary to study the class position of the workers. It is from that standpoint that the Marxist approaches this question. Roman Catholics and the religious non-descripts known as the "Protestants" and "Rationalists," all advocate nostrums in opposition to the working class. All of them deal with society as though it were god-ordained. The "Rationalist" appeals to all classes, NOT THE WORKING CLASS. They ignore the class struggle, and therefore are as much in opposition to the working class as any anti-Socialist organisation can be.

It is here that the reactionaries meet. There is no difference between the "Rationalist" and the Roman Catholic when social and political institutions are involved. There is no difference between J. M. Robertson who believes in the "divine" right of capital, and Pope Leo XIII, who asserted the following. Speaking of the Socialists, he maintained that:

"Such persons would abolish all distinctions of rank, and make all citizens equal, in order that all might equally have access to the good things of life. They would likewise do away with ownership, confiscate private fortunes, and socialise the instrument of labor. But Christian democracy ought to have as its foundation the principles laid down by divine faith, having regard, indeed, to the temporary advantage of the poorer and less educated, but designing therewith to fit their minds for the enjoyment of things eternal. Accordingly to Christian democracy let there be nothing more sacred than law and right; let it bid the right of having and holding inviolate; let it maintain the diversity of ranks, which properly belongs to a well ordered state." (Black type mine.—M.B.).

The Pope's edict is exactly that of the "Rationalists." They believe in the right of the master-class to rob and exploit the working-class, and seek in their propaganda to deluge the worker, to deal with a dying system of "thought" rather than explain the origin and development of that "system." John M. Robertson took up the same position as Pope Leo XIII. in a series of articles he wrote for "Manchester Evening News" some few years ago. He also backed up the Liberal Government who had sent troops to various parts of the British Isles, and where the workers were massacred in cold blood.

The reason why these extremes in "thought" meet is that they both endorse the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class.

It is for the further development of mental obscurity that the Roman Catholic Church now seeks to openly create a political party. And it is interesting to note that wherever there is a Roman Catholic political party, there "direct action" and anarchism grows apace. The Latin countries always breed anarchists, because the doctrines of the church so depress one's mind that they see the terror in the Church instead of the conditions that develop it.

The Roman Catholic Church in Australia has little to grumble about. It controls the Labor Party, and the Labor Party cannot win without its support. If the Labor Party is returned, and Mr. Ryan becomes Premier, the interests of the Roman Catholic will rest in good hands. The act of forming the new party in New South Wales is a clever dodge on the part of the reactionaries. But it will act as a boomerang. Immediately the success of the new party is seen, that moment will call into being a support for the proletarian organisation that espouses revolutionary doctrine. That party cannot be one that maintaining religion is a private matter.

Religion is NOT a private matter. IT IS A PUBLIC NUISANCE. The workers will soon realise that the question is NOT one of RELIGION, but one of the class struggle. Those who say that religion is a private matter are just as much opposed to the workers as those who say that religion can help them.

It is the work of the Socialist to attack religion as a "philosophy." It is the duty of the Socialist to explain that religion is, as Marx stated, "the opium of the people." The materialistic conception of history explains the social forces and the effect they have on the thought of society. The entrance of the Roman Catholic Church into the arena of political parties will be welcomed by the Marxist. For he can explain the function of religion. The Church has ever been the handmaiden of the ruling class since its "inception."

It is unlikely that the "principles" which animated it in the past will now be shelved. The Church realises that its grip is gradually disappearing. This is due to the growth of mechanical production. Let the reader take hold of Paul Lafargue's book, "Social and Philosophic Studies" and read how the machine process dominates the mind of the worker. Take Thorstein Veblen's work, "The Theory of Business Enterprise," and look over Chapter 9. Read Frederick Engels' "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific," Marx's "Jewish Question," and the reason for the change in the ideas will be clearly set forth. The best work to read in order to understand these forces, is the Preface to the "Critique of Political Economy," by Karl Marx.

The Roman Catholic Church is now going to do in the open what it has done under cover. That Church has always taken political action. It has ALWAYS been a political party. It pretends to come out as a "new" party. But it is as old as the religion itself. Its very existence as an avowed political party damns it to an earlier oblivion. There will be every effort made by the anti-Catholics to counteract the new party. That will not affect the workers very much. Whilst Catholic and Protestant will in the open, be opposing one another, whilst "Rationalist" and "Atheist" will oppose them both, all of them will be doing the work of the master class. They all favor the present system of society, and in com-

bating each other, will not get down to what is the vital issue. That issue is freedom or slavery. The Revolutionist stands for the former, the "Rationalist," Roman Catholic and Protestant stand for the latter.

To be anti-clerical as the "Rationalist" is, is to be pro-capitalist. To be "clerical" is to be pro-capitalist. The working class position is to be anti-everything that is pro-capitalist. The Socialist will fight the new party no less vigorously than he will fight the old organisations. He will attack religion from the view of Marxism. He will follow Marx in his "Jewish Question" where he says:

"We do not transform questions of this world into questions of theology, but we transform questions of theology into questions of this world. History has been explained by religion long enough; let us explain religion by history."

It is that way only, that we can get the worker to understand. We must inform the working class, and make them understand that the Roman Catholic Church is seeking by its new move to bolster up the gradually decaying system of capitalism. They will be no more successful than the territorial aristocracy of Prussia England and France.

Social forces are operating, and to those forces we direct the attention of the working class. Every advance in machine production adds to the general enlightenment of the workers who operate the machines. That is why the industrial worker is less prone to the influence of religion than the agricultural laborer or farmer. Naquet, the French philosopher, summed up the matter in a very fine sentence. He said that

"Whenever knowledge takes a step forward, God takes a step backward." To us religion is the essence of superstition. The Roman Catholic Church is anxious to perpetuate its religion. But the religion itself is changing, re-forming itself to the environment that dominates it. It is the last gasp of the reactionaries to call in God as an aid to the furtherance of slavery. Frederick Engels, in his "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific," can be quoted to illustrate what the Roman Catholic Church desires to accomplish. Says Engels:

"If our juridical, philosophical and religious ideas are more or less offshoots of the economic relations prevailing in a given society, such ideas cannot, in the long run, withstand the effects of a complete change in these relations, and unless we believe in supernatural revelations, we must ADMIT THAT NO RELIGIOUS TENETS WILL EVER SUFFICE TO PROP A TOTTERING SOCIETY." (Caps.—M.B.).

It is because society is tottering that the Roman Catholic Church now comes forward as the "social savior." Man emancipated from slavery needs no slavish ideas. In fact he will not possess any. Socialism involves the abolition of the God idea. With a social organisation based upon freedom, superstition would disappear.

May I again quote Marx in "Capital," page 51, English ed., page 91, American edition:

"The religious reflex of the real world can, in any case, only then finally vanish when practical relations of everyday life offer to man none by perfectly intelligible and reasonable relations

Continued on page 4.

The vaudeville stage is now being set. We have the Nationalists on the one side and that social evil known as the Labor Party on the other. The Nationalists stand for capitalism undisguised, but this

"The Riddle of Industry."

By Matade.

Wallace Nelson has just published under the title of "The Riddle of Industry," his series of articles which ran through the "Australian Manufacturer."

The book is bound to receive a boost

from the master class, and, already "The Australian Worker" has advised everyone to buy it as "he has placed a very odd case in a new light. . . . and where it isn't convincing it is sparklingly clever."

It would be impossible and also waste of time to follow the writer closely and show all his wrong conclusions, but I intend, from time to time, to deal with some of his most important mistakes, the knocking down of which shall make good propaganda work. This first article, though, is more to put it over Nelson, than to build up anything for propaganda purposes.

Nelson tries to "refute" the fact that all profit comes from unpaid labor. (Page 53.) By the following illustration:

Here are two factory owners. John Smith and John Brown. Smith is a very poor manager. He neglects his factory, he uses old fashioned machinery. He is inefficient. The result of that he just manages to keep on his legs, paying his way, and no more. His profits are small. Brown on the other hand, is a capital manager. He takes a keen and intelligent interest in his factory. He is always on the lookout for new machinery and new methods. He is efficient. The result is that while he pays the same rate of wages as Smith, and provides even better working conditions, he nets the sum of five thousand a year.

"That sum is profit."

"Now, it is quite clear that, that profit does not come from unpaid labor. Labor did not produce it. It was produced by the superior managerial skill of Brown." (Page 54.)

"If all managers were to become equally efficient," (or "inefficient" profits could disappear." (Page 56.)

The conclusions to be drawn from this are firstly, all profit is derived from "managerial ability," and secondly, if when all "managerial ability" is equal there is no profit, the existence of all profit therefore has for its basis different grades of "managerial ability." So to boil it right down to its final conclusion, where there are no bad managers, there would be no profits.

The basis of Capitalism is the production of profit, and as profit is produced because of the fact that there are bad managers, then, bad managers is all that allows Capitalism to exist. Hence the basis of Capitalism, nay, its very lifeblood—profit (according to Nelson), is derived from bad managers.

How Smith got his profit Nelson never attempted to tell us. But there is more I want to ask other than how he got his profit.

What would the Capitalist do if there

so-called Labor Party masks itself by parading under the name of "Labor."

The Nationalists have stolen all the thunder from the Labor Party (and they are placed in the same position as the Socialist Party of America when the Bull Moose party robbed them of all their planks). The big hit was the referendum on the nationalising of monopolies.

Bengal Bill and his ferocious tigers have seized on to this, and are going to ride it into the ministerial benches. Bill also stands for a white Australia, a high protective tariff, repatriation for sick bullet stoppers, baby bonuses, old age pensions, arbitration courts, and slaughtering the "profiteers." By way of suggestion to Ryan, as chief ringmaster in the Labor side of the coming circus, we think a good battle-cries would be: "Free beer to all; death to Bolsheviks. Picture shows on Sunday, and afternoon tea to all manual workers."

Failing that "Imprisonment to all who will not buy the shoddy-made Australian goods." For the love of Mike, workers, can't you tumble to the joke?

were no bad managers, Mr. Nelson? Would they make some so that they could go on producing profits?

When the trust hunts all its competitors off the market, Mr. Nelson, do they then have no profits?

If when all "managers are equally efficient there is no profit," then as soon as all industries become trustified, the present system shall be at a standstill through not being able to make any profit! Is not that right, according to your hypothesis, Mr. Nelson?

How do you account for the Sugar Co., the Tobacco Co., the Harbor Trust, etc., making a profit? They being monopolies, it necessarily follows that there are no firms outside them badly managed.

How, Mr. Nelson, seeing that you say "We can have the best of both worlds if we do not strike with our hearts, to be fair and impartial, to look at things all round." I will ask you to leave your head doing its own work and get your head to work to explain just one "just thought." If, when all managers are equally efficient, profits disappear, "please" explain how the trusts make their profits, keeping in mind what you also stated on page 55: "Profit does not come out of the pockets of the worker but out of the pockets of the consumer."

As already quoted above, Nelson states "Labor does not produce it. Profit," and on page 54 he said "Brown is organized as a business that takes added good results." Now, Mr. Nelson, if labor does not produce it, how could Brown make labor yield good results? Do you understand that you have given the whole show away?

The reason why Brown's business shows a bigger profit is because the surplus time of the unpaid labor, in Brown's factory is more than in Smith's.

You may ask, but how can this be so, does not Brown and Smith both pay the same wages? Sure they do! and with these wages, buy a certain amount of food, clothing and shelter. The workers, in producing more, it necessarily follows that there is that much extra going to Brown.

If workers produce more in given time, this shortens the time necessary for them to produce the equal of their wages. So the workers in producing more, shortens the time necessary for them to reproduce the value of their wages, or laboring power; this means that a greater amount of their time, or, Brown's laborers' time upon the job, is left over to produce surplus value, or profit, for Brown. Hence, Mr. Nelson, in trying to prove that "managerial ability" creates profits, you have proven beyond all shadow of a doubt that labor creates profit.

What you have shown is that the workers, in producing more in Brown's factory, have shortened the time necessary to produce the things their wages buys, and as the working day has remained constant, it necessarily follows that if the time to replace the workers' wages is reduced, a greater amount of unpaid, or surplus, labor goes to Brown. Can you see through a brick wall when there is a hole in it, Mr. Nelson?

In conclusion Mr. Nelson, unless you can answer the above questions, I must continue to hold with Marx, that all profit is unpaid labor.

VALUE, PRICE AND PROFIT.

Paper, 9d, posted 10d, 7/- per doz
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115 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY.

A.S.P. Hall

Liverpool St.

Lecture every Sunday

Unity

After the abortive Conference of the four Socialist bodies which took place at the Trades Hall on September 6th, we received a letter from the S.L.P. inviting us to confer with them to devise a basis of Unity on which to bring together the S.L.P. and A.S.P. The meeting was called for Friday, September 12th, and we were asked to send along three delegates.

The invitation was promptly accepted, and the delegates appointed were Coms. Mrs. Reardon, Everitt, and Thomas.

Those of the S.L.P. were Coms. Judd, Healy and Ostler.

Com. Everitt was appointed Chairman, and Com. Healy as recording secretary.

The full report of the result and decisions of this Conference is as follows:—

Name.

Com. Ostler moved that the name of the United Party be "The Revolutionary Socialist Party," and the name of paper the "International Socialist." Com. Thomas seconded. The motion was carried, Coms. Judd and Healy dissenting in favor of the name S.L.P.

Objective.

The abolition of Capitalism (the class ownership of industry, either privately, or through Nationalisation), and the establishment in place thereof of a Cooperative Commonwealth founded upon the social ownership by the whole community of the land, and socially operated means of production, with the establishment of a system of production for USE instead of for PROFIT.

Statement of Principles.

The present form of Society rests on private ownership of the land and the machinery (tools) of production.

The owners of most of the land and machinery of production constitute what is economically known as the capitalist class. Hence the use of the term, "The capitalist form of society."

This form of ownership divides society in all countries into two distinct and opposing classes—the capitalist class and the working class.

The working class produces all the wealth of society, whilst it only receives sufficient to enable it to carry on production (i.e., a living wage). The rest of the wealth is appropriated by the capitalist class, and is known as surplus value.

Thus a conflict of interests is set up over the division of this wealth, each class striving to obtain possession of a greater portion. The conflict of interests begets a never-ending struggle known as the class war, some section or other of the working class being ever engaged in actual conflict.

Political Action and the State.

The struggle forces the workers to organize in the industrial field. But this organization inevitably produces political consequences.

The State, that combination of legal, judicial and coercive forces, which is directed by the Government (the executive of the capitalist system), is the weapon with which the capitalist class defeats the workers in the industrial field. Finding themselves in conflict with the State, the workers are forced to find political expression for their economic organizations.

Inasmuch as industrial action produces political consequences, the R.S.P. recognises the use of revolutionary political action on the above basis, as distinct from the palliative-muzzling parliamentarism of non-revolutionary parties, to be essential to the complete overthrow of the capitalist system.

As to Unionism.

The R.S.P. aims and declares for Industrial Unionism as against craft or sectional unionism, for whereas the specialization of the processes of production, the invention of machinery, and the concentration of ownership into fewer and fewer hands, makes craft unionism unable to cope with this economic development, and ever growing power of the employing class, because it is a relic of a lower stage in the evolution of capitalist production, i.e., the organized labor expressions of lower forms of tools, the R.S.P. therefore declares that to-day this organization has outlived its usefulness, and has created crabs and sections amongst the working class in the same industry, and this contradiction in industrial development allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set in the same industry, and industry against industry, thereby debasing one another when waging war against the encroachments of the capitalist class, with their superior and higher developed organizations. And in view of this economic development the working class must organize in such a manner as will correspond to the development of the tools of production.

Therefore the R.S. Party endorses that form of Industrial Unionism that organizes on the basis of the class struggle for Revolution, and recognises the necessity for both Political and Industrial Action to abolish the Capitalist Class State and institute the Industrial Republic.

The last paragraph was carried with the word "adopt" instead of "recognise" the necessity for," but at the next sitting Com. Ostler moved the deletion of the word, and the substitution of "Recognise the necessity for," which was carried; Mrs. Reardon seconded the motion. Com. Judd dissented.

As to Economic Interpretation of History.

The R.S.P. pledges itself to the materialistic interpretation of history, which asserts that the transition from one system of society to another, as in the past, from primitive communism to chattel slavery, from chattel slavery to feudalism, and from feudalism to the present Capitalist State, has been the result of new and improved methods of production.

All the institutions of any period of society are moulded by the prevailing economic conditions. The religious, juridical, educational and social institutions, therefore reflect the interests of the dominant class. Thus these institutions and their ideology bolster up the capitalist system.

As to Militarism.

The R.S. Party, declares itself uncompromisingly hostile to all forms of militarism and armaments which are used to buttress Capitalism.

Methods.

The industrial and political organization of the workers—mental and manual, distribution of Socialist literature, lectures on Socialism, also social, political and industrial questions; and to attain our object—a Cooperative Commonwealth—the election of Socialists to Parliament, Federal and State.

RULES.

Name.

The name of the Party shall be the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

Headquarters.

The headquarters of the Party shall be such place as the Conference shall fix upon.

Officers.

The officers of the Party shall consist of a General Secretary, Treasurer, and two Trustees, all of whom shall be elected by a vote of the Party and must be financial members of the Party for six months.

Election of Officers.

A ballot for the positions of officers of the Party shall be taken as soon as possible after the end of the financial year (December 31st). Nominations shall be called for when the Annual Report and Balance Sheet are submitted to branches.

The Report and Balance Sheet shall be audited not later than its end in January. The Central Executive shall count the ballot.

Branches shall nominate a total of one for each office at a special meeting, or at any other time, at least seven days' notice has been given. A simple majority shall count in all ballots.

Suspension of Officers.

The Central Executive may suspend any Party Officer who does not fulfil his duties in the interest of the Party. When such suspension takes place, the officer shall have the right to appeal to the Central Executive. The Central Executive shall have the right to suspend any officer with both sides of a vote. If a majority vote is obtained, the officer shall be suspended. In the event of a tie, the Central Executive shall decide on the suspension of the officer.

Vacancies.

If any officer resigns or is suspended, the Central Executive shall fill the vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the Central Executive, it shall be filled by the Central Executive at its next meeting.

Annual Conference.

A conference of the Party shall be held whenever deemed necessary by the Central Executive, or by a vote of the Party, at least three months before the end of the financial year.

The Central Executive shall have the power to suspend any officer who does not fulfil his duties in the interest of the Party. When such suspension takes place, the officer shall have the right to appeal to the Central Executive. The Central Executive shall have the right to suspend any officer with both sides of a vote. If a majority vote is obtained, the officer shall be suspended. In the event of a tie, the Central Executive shall decide on the suspension of the officer.

The Conference shall consist of General Secretary, General Treasurer, two Trustees (neither of whom shall be eligible to vote), and Delegates from each affiliated Branch upon the following basis: one delegate for 50 members or part thereof.

On all Conference business that has been submitted to Branches prior to Conference, each delegate shall have a vote equal to the number of members he or she represents for which sustentation fees have been paid. On business introduced by delegates at Conference each delegate shall have one vote.

The decision arrived at must be submitted to Branches for ratification before being acted upon.

Alternate or proxy delegates may be appointed by Branches. Decisions of Conference shall be final, but any decision of Conference may be challenged within four weeks by any two branches, and a referendum of the membership of the Party demanded. All decisions shall remain in force until amended or rescinded upon notice to Conference.

Special Conference.

A Special Conference may be convened upon the demand of two or more Branches or the Central Executive, to deal with urgent business. The Central Executive shall forward the matter to Branches, and a majority of Branches shall decide whether the business to be dealt with is important enough to justify the calling of a Special Conference.

Referendum.

Upon a referendum being demanded by two or more Branches, in connection with any matter, the Central Executive shall supply the requisite papers to Branches within one month, and each Branch shall be allowed to count its own ballot prior to forwarding papers to Central Executive within one month from date of ballot, the Executive to notify result of ballot within one week from receipt of papers.

Branches.

Branches shall be self-governing within the provisions of the R.S.P. Constitution and Rules, Principles and Policy. Branches of the R.S.P. may be formed by not less than six persons who accept the principles and policy of the R.S.P. by making application to the Central Executive and receiving endorsement. All Branches shall have the right to elect as many officers as they may deem advisable, but no member shall be eligible for office, paid or honorary, in any Branch established six months unless six months a member of the Party.

Each Branch shall notify the Central Executive of the number of financial members every half-year for the purpose of determining voting strength of delegates on Central Executive.

Dues.

Branches shall pay 1s. per financial member per year as sustentation fee; the same to be paid by purchase of stamps at 1s. 1d. per dozen from the Central Executive. At the end of each year, Branches shall return unsold stamps and be credited with same.

No subscriptions shall be received by Branches without affixing the official Party stamps to membership cards. When members are unemployed or sick, the Secretary of the Branch shall affix exempt stamps for the period applied for.

Expulsion of Branches.

Any Branch of the R.S.P. believing that

POLITICS.

Continued from Front Page

with regard to his fellowmen and to nature."

Socialism alone can make these relations reasonable. As the Socialist Party of Great Britain's pamphlet on "Socialism and Religion" so well maintains—

"The entry of Socialism is, consequently, the exodus of religion."

The Roman Catholic Church, fearing its impending doom, now takes action to perpetuate its age-worn superstitions. It seeks to impose upon the working class the absurdities of a flat earth, heaven and hell, and the substitution of superstition for science. In the Marxist the Church will find an unrelenting foe, not so much because of the religious attitude, as from an attitude of antagonism against the supporters of wage-slavery. It is that phase of the question that we lay most stress on. To quote the Socialist Party of Great Britain's pamphlet once more—

"Under all its multifarious forms the modern mission of religion is to cloak the hideousness and injustice of the social conditions and keep the exploited meek and submissive. But Socialism is the possibility of social conditions that are rational and humane, and need no mask. Therefore, to tear the veil of hypocrisy and mysticism from modern society is to urge the workers to end its misery and inequality. Nevertheless, the importance of the religious question must not be over-estimated; it is important, but yet secondary to the great economic and political movement itself, for the supreme aim of the worker must be their emancipation from wage-slavery, and the war on superstition, but a phase of this great struggle. But it must not be forgotten that since religion is even used as a weapon by the ruling class against the wealth producers, no workingman in the struggle for the emancipation of his class can honestly avoid the religious conflict. Our question is, therefore, answered. Socialism, both as a philosophy and as a form of society, is the antithesis of religion."

Funds Wanted.

The Party having decided to put a number of Organisers in the field, requires the financial assistance of ALL Branches, Members and Supporters.

Funds are wanted right NOW, and all Donations should be sent to the General Secretary, A. S. P., 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.

SOUTH COAST FIXTURES FOR OCTOBER.

WOONONA	18th
SCARBOROUGH	19th
CORRIMAL	20th
THIRROOL	26th

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS

Whoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we know you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER A.L.R.G.E., and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney

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PAMPHLET BY MOSES BARITZ.

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Printed and Published by William Joseph Thomas, at 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney, for the Australian Socialist Party.

S. L. P.

General Executive

A General Executive Committee shall be elected annually from nominations received from financial members of the party through the Branches; but no person can be nominated who has not been a financial member of the party for at least six months and who has not been identified with the general work of the party.

Such General Executive shall consist of General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and a Committee of seven members.

In the event of any member of the General Executive being absent from three consecutive meetings, his seat shall be declared vacant, and he shall be declared vacant.

Duties of General Executive.

The General Executive shall exercise a supervising control over the work of the Party; it shall have a determining voice in the selection of candidates, and also of representatives to the contested Federal or State elections; it shall deal with such matters of local dispute between Branches as may be referred to them; it shall be subject to a referendum vote of the members for and against, through the Branches, at the Annual Conference, and submit to it a report and balance sheet detailing the work and financial position of the party during the preceding twelve months.

The General Executive shall interpret the Constitution, and their interpretation can only be overruled by the Annual Conference, or a vote of the financial members. Before such a vote can be taken two Branches must demand it. If a majority decide against the interpretation of the General Executive, a new rule must be added to the Constitution embodying the decision of the members.

Three months before the Annual Conference the General Secretary shall call for nominations from members of the party through the Branches for the offices of General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and seven members of the General Executive, and two Auditors. No member's name shall be submitted for more than one position on the General Executive ballot paper.

Nominations shall close one month later, and the General Secretary shall then prepare and issue ballot papers to members, through the Branch Secretaries, returnable to him not later than the date of the assembling of the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference shall elect three scrutineers from their members to examine and declare the ballot. Members entitled to vote shall be those for whom each Branch shall have paid the capitation fee for at least the preceding three months. In the event of vacancies occurring on the General Executive, or the Auditors, they shall be filled in the manner prescribed for the annual elections.

A. S. P.

Central Executive.

The Central Executive shall consist of the General Secretary, Treasurer, two Trustees, and representatives appointed on the basis of proportional representation by each affiliated Branch, upon the termination of the Annual Conference, and such Representatives shall sit unless they resign or are recalled, until the subsequent Annual Conference. On all business each delegate shall have a vote equal to the number of members he or she represents, and for which sustentation fees have been paid. The Central Executive shall meet not less than once a month. Its decisions other than upon urgent and formal matters shall be referred to Branches for approval or otherwise. Delegates shall report regularly to Branches every month. The Executive itself shall make a quarterly report to Branches. Branches unable to send delegates to Executive meetings shall have the right to elect proxy delegates; these delegates shall be elected by the same methods as other delegates and carry the same voting power.

* * *

On the motion of Comrades Ostler and Thomas, the above was adopted as correct. Comrades Judd and Egan were appointed to correct printed proofs and sign same.

Comrade Egan moved: "That in the event of the Executive of the S.L.P. deciding to submit the results of this conference to their branches, as the A.S.P. Executive must do, both executives instruct the said branches to forward their decisions to both the S.L.P. and A.S.P. Executive."

The A.S.P. delegates stated that they were aware that the S.L.P. Executive was not bound to submit the matter to their members, but the resolution, if carried, would take effect if they decided to do so. The resolution would do away with the talk, that has been the aftermath of past conferences, about the executives not carrying out the wish of the branches; such insinuations would be impossible, as both executives would be fully aware of the desires of the membership of both parties.

Com. Judd stated that he could not see the need for it, and that he thought that it was not a matter for this conference, it was a matter for the Executive, and further, that he would not vote on the question.

Com. Ostler said that he did not see clearly what the motion aimed at, and whilst he could not bind his executive to it by voting for it he would bring the matter before them. The chairman stated that as the opinions expressed by the S.L.P. delegates were against the motion, and those of the S.L.P. in favor of it, he could only declare the motion negatived, as it would be useless forcing such a motion through.

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CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS.

Membership Declaration.

I, the undersigned, having read the Principles and Policy of the R.S. Party, which I unreservedly endorse, hereby apply for membership in the Branch of the R.S. Party. I further declare that I am not a member of or connected with, directly or indirectly, any Political Organisation or Party, other than the R.S. Party, and that I will render no support to any other Political Organisation or Party.

Comrades Judd and Healy dissented from this decision, favoring the S.L.P. question form.

Official Newspapers and Pamphlets.

"The International Socialist" shall be the central and official organ of the R.S.P.

The Official Organ or any newspaper or magazine the property of the party, shall be under the direct control of the General Executive. They shall advocate only the principles, demands, and methods of the party as laid down by its members. They shall be controlled by a Press Committee of three members elected annually by the General Executive, and such Press Committee, in part, or whole may be removed and their places filled at any time by the General Executive.

The General Executive shall control the issue of all literature; and no member, branch, or committee shall issue any leaflet, unless instructed by the General Executive.

No branch, member, or committee shall publish any newspaper or magazine without the sanction of the General Executive, and the General Executive shall not sanction the issue of any newspaper or magazine unless it is to be the property of the party and controlled by a Press Committee appointed by a General Executive.

No branch, member, or committee shall give official or financial support to any newspaper or magazine published to advocate the principles of the party unless owned and controlled by the party. The General Executive shall expel members who directly or indirectly infringe this clause.

The official organ shall be controlled by an Editor elected by a vote of the Party, and who shall be under the jurisdiction of the Press Committee which shall pass all matter for publication.

All printed matter (except for business purposes) published by branches must be submitted to the Central Executive, who shall endorse such matter if it is in accordance with the principles and policy of the R.S.P. In the event of such matter being rejected by the Central Executive the branch concerned shall have the right of appeal to branches.

The above clause will not apply to a paper which has been endorsed by the C.E., issued by any branch.

The above clause will not apply to a paper which has been endorsed by the C.E., issued by any branch.

In the event of a paper issued by any Branch violating the Principles and Policy of the R.S.P., the charter issued to such Branch shall be immediately cancelled by the Central Executive, and the method of determining such charge shall be that provided in Rules 12 and 14.

Banking Account.

A Banking Account shall be opened in the names of the two Trustees, General Secretary, Treasurer, three of whose signatures shall be required for all cheques, and all accounts in connection with the Party shall be paid by cheque.

Emergency Questions.

When questions arise such as the Federal Referenda, on which Conference has not pronounced, the Executive shall, after submitting same to members, declare the attitude of the R.S.P. in connection therewith in accordance with the decision of the majority of the Party. Such pronouncement shall be loyally supported by the Party Branches, Members and Press, and shall be subject to review at the following Conference.

Party Property.

The C.E. shall exercise on behalf of the Party, prerogative over all Branch property, and in the event of any Branch seceding from the Party, its property will revert to the C.E.

The Central Executive.

On the discussion of the formation of the Central Executive, Com. Judd moved that it be formed on the same lines as that of the S.L.P.

His reasons for standing by this formation as against that of the A.S.P. were briefly as follows:—

That an Executive based on Branch representation gave a minority a voice in the governing power out of proportion to its numerical strength.

Instancing that a Branch of seven members might keep a delegate on the Executive, against the wishes of the whole of the rest of the organisation.

He contended that it was more democratic for the whole of the membership to elect the whole of the Executive.

Also as the Party grew the direct Branch representation would grow unwieldy.

The A.S.P. delegates in reply stated that they would support the formation of the A.S.P. Executive on the grounds that it was more democratic, as each Branch was directly represented, and that its delegates or proxy delegates, were under the sole control of their Branch, and above all, that by this method, as each delegate was obliged to send a report of every meeting of the C.E. to their respective Branches, the latter were kept in touch with the Central Executive, and must be kept informed of everything that took place at its meetings. Com. Judd had admitted that the formation of the S.L.P. Executive did not enforce the submitting of all business to Branches for endorsement, although, he added, it generally did so. The A.S.P. delegate was opposed to the idea of a number of individuals being elected for twelve months, over which the Branches had no control until the next election of officers, and who could not be removed until some breach of principles could be proved, they contended that it was far too autocratic. In their own case, if Branches were not satisfied with the way their delegates were acting, they could remove them instantly. As for the Executive growing unwieldy, it only showed progress, and under a well organised system hundreds of delegates could be called together in less than twenty-four hours.

Members are asked to study carefully the formation of both executives and judge for themselves which they consider the more democratic.

another Branch has been guilty of a breach of Rules, Principles, and Policy of the R.S.P., shall be called upon to show cause to the Central Executive why its charter should not be cancelled. Any Branch so challenged shall be given 28 days' notice of the hearing of such charges, which shall be submitted to the Branches by the Central Executive, and in the event of the decision of the Branches upholding the charge the said Branch shall be expelled by the Central Executive.

Any Branch so expelled from the R.S.P. shall not be again admitted, except at the discretion of the Central Executive, subject to its approval of branches.

Membership.

Persons desiring to be public members of the party residing in districts where a Branch exists shall make application to that Branch for membership. Membership cards shall be interchangeable with minimum subscription of 1s per month, except persons under the age of 18 years, who shall pay 6d per month. Applicants for membership in any Branch shall sign a declaration endorsing the principles and policy of the R.S.P., and the proposed application shall be subject to the approval of a general meeting of the Branch concerned. No member shall belong to any other political organisation, but this provision shall not deter membership for purely industrial purposes in Trades Unions which are primarily industrial. Any member shall have the right to speak at the meeting of any Branch, but shall only exercise voting power at the Branch of which he or she is a member. No member shall be expelled for more than one Branch.

Where no branch exists, members may enroll through the Central Executive on members at large.

No member under the age of 16 years shall be eligible for membership, and no member under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to vote on Principles and Policy, Rules and Constitution of the Party or Branch business.

Any member who has failed three months in arrears, after having been given one month's notice by the Branch Secretary, shall be considered unaffiliated, and be struck off the books, unless arrears have arisen through unavoidable causes.

Expulsion of Members.

Any officer or member of the R.S.P., believing that any member has been guilty of a breach of the Rules or Principles or Policy of the Party, shall have power to move that the said member be called upon to show cause to the Branch to which such member belongs, why he or she should not be censured or expelled. The Branch shall appoint a date for the hearing of the charge, of which at least 14 days' notice in writing shall be given to such member, and a satisfied that the charge has been proved, and if it is of sufficient gravity, the Branch may suspend or expel such member from membership. Any member so suspended, or expelled, shall have the right to claim that the papers in connection with the case shall be sent on to the Central Executive, who shall, finally, hear and determine such case.

Branches shall notify the Central Executive of any expulsion.

Any member expelled from the R.S.P. shall not again be admitted to membership except at the discretion of the Central Executive or Conference.

As to Other Political Parties.

No member of the R.S. Party shall stand as other than the candidate of the R.S. Party; a member before being eligible for nomination as a candidate must be a member of the Party for twelve months.

No member or Branch of the R.S.P. shall enter into any alliance, temporary or permanent, with any other than a Revolutionary Socialist Party. Socialist candidates shall be selected by the Branches concerned, and where no Branch exists by the Central Executive, and before running be endorsed by the Central Executive, to which the candidate shall pledge himself. The Central Executive will call for nominations for the Senate.

All candidates elected under the auspices of the party to Federal or State Parliaments shall be subject to recall in the event of their failure to uphold the principles, platform and methods of the party.

The recall is to be decided upon by a majority vote of the members of the party, after the member concerned has had an opportunity of meeting the charges brought against them.

Before a member's name can go to a ballot for selection as a candidate, he shall place in the hands of the General Executive a resignation of that position, with date space blank, to be held until such time as the member is adjudged, in accordance with the preceding rule, to have failed to uphold the principles, platform and methods of the party, when the date shall be filled in and the resignation forwarded to the proper quarter. He shall also sign a declaration to the effect that he is in accordance with these rules and conditions and sign the resignation of his own free will.

DECLARATION.

The declaration shall read as follows:—In accordance with rule 1 of this Constitution of the R.S.P. with which I fully agree, without any reservation whatsoever, I do, of my own free will, sign the resignation of the office of

Signed _____

Witness _____

No member shall be deemed to be selected as a candidate to represent this party in an election Federal or State until his resignation and accompanying declaration shall have been forwarded to the General Executive, and shall have been endorsed by that body.

All members elected to Parliament (Federal or State), or other public bodies, shall at least once a month, or when directed by the General Executive, render to the members an account of their acts. And shall carry out all instructions of the General Executive. And shall resign their positions in the event of their recall being demanded in accordance with rule 40 of Constitution.

Any member of the Party holding a public position—Federal or State—shall not retain office in the Party, unless a majority of members voting by ballot otherwise decide.

In the event of a member of the R.S.P. being elected to Parliament, that member shall attend Parliamentary sessions as instructed by the General Executive, and during recess be at the service of any Branch for agitation and propaganda purposes after application has been made by such Branch to the Central Executive.